

Application for variation or revocation of a contact order section 27(1)(b) or section 51B(1)(c) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Form A54)

Notes on completing the form

Important

This form is for use only if you are asking the court to vary or revoke a contact order made under section 26 or section 51A of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

If you are attaching any order of the High Court, County Court or the Family Court to your application, it must be a **sealed** copy of the order (that is, a copy that has been stamped with the seal of the court). If you are attaching an order made by a magistrates' court, it must be a **certified copy** (a copy certified by the court officer to be a true copy of the original order) or a copy that bears the stamp of the originating court. An order issued by any other authority must be properly authenticated by that authority. If you are in any doubt about what is needed, the court staff will be able to advise you.

Take or send the completed application form, and **three copies**, to the court, together with the court fee and any documents you are attaching in support of your application. If you are not sure about the court fee payable for your application, or you think that you may be exempt from paying all or part of the fee, you should contact the court for information.

Notes on the application form

Note 1

To be eligible to apply for a variation or revocation of a contact order made under section 26 or section 51A of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, you must be:

- the child to whom the contact order applies; or
- a person named in the contact order to which your application applies;

In addition you may apply for a variation or revocation of a contact order under section 26 if you are:

- an officer of the adoption agency that is authorised to place, or has placed, for adoption the child named in the contact order.

You must attach a copy of the contact order to your application.

Note 2

If you are a prospective adopter (that is, you will be making an application to adopt the child), please see Note 4 below. Otherwise, if you do not want your private address and telephone number, or the child's address, or (if the child does not live with you) the name of the person with whom the child lives, to be disclosed to any other party, do not enter those details on this application form. Instead you should enter the details on Form A65, which you must file at the court with your application. The information will not then be disclosed to any person, except by order of the court.

Note 3

If you are applying as an officer of the adoption agency that is authorised to place the child for adoption, or has placed the child for adoption, you should enter the name and address of the adoption agency and the telephone number on which you can be contacted during working hours.

Note 4

If you are a prospective adopter (that is, you will be making an application to adopt the child) or you are the adoptive parent and you do not want your identity to be made known to the parents or guardians of the child, the court will issue you with a serial number. Any documents sent to the other parties will show the serial number, not your personal details. If you are required to attend the same court hearing, the court will make arrangements to ensure that your identity is protected.

If a serial number has already been issued to you, please ensure that it is entered in Part 2, paragraph (g) (About other orders or proceedings that affect the child).

Note 5

If there are any other earlier, or current, court proceedings relating to the child, give the name of the court, the nature of the proceedings and the date and effect of any order made. If you were a party to any proceedings that have been completed, you should attach a copy of the final order to your application. You do not need to enter here the details of the contact order you are asking the court to vary or revoke. Instead, you should enter those details in Part 4 'About this application'.

Note 6

If the child has previously been adopted, give the names of his/her adoptive parents and not those of his/her natural parents.

Note 7

If the child's parents were not married at the time of his/her birth, the child's father may have acquired parental responsibility

- by subsequent marriage to the child's mother;
- because he has a parental responsibility agreement with the mother, or has been granted a parental responsibility order, or
- because he registered the child's birth jointly with the child's mother (on or after 1 December 2003).

Give details of any court order or agreement in respect of parental responsibility in Part 2 About the child, paragraph (g).

Note 8

If the child does not have a guardian, enter 'not applicable'. Otherwise, enter the details of any person appointed to be the child's guardian by deed or will or otherwise in writing in accordance with section 5(5) of the Children Act 1989, or by an order made under section 5(1) or 14A of that Act. If the child has more than one guardian, please give the name and address of any other guardian(s) on a separate sheet, putting the child's full name, the number of the Part and the paragraph reference at the head of the sheet.

Note 9

If you are a prospective adopter or an adoptive parent and you already have a serial number or have asked for one to be issued, you should make sure that the reasons for your application do not include any information that could lead to your identity being disclosed.

Any applicant who has withheld their address or telephone number, or the child's address or the name of the person with whom the child lives should make sure that they do not include any information that could lead to those details being disclosed.

Special assistance or facilities for disability if you attend the court

Note 10

If you need special assistance or special facilities for a disability or impairment, please set out your requirements in full. The court staff will need to know, for example, whether you want documents to be supplied in an alternative format, such as Braille or large print. They will also need to know about any specific requirements you may have on the day of the hearing, such as wheelchair access, a hearing loop, or a sign language interpreter.

The court staff will get in touch with you about your requirements. It is important that you make the court aware of all your needs. If you do not, the result may be that the hearing has to be adjourned.